

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4424

FOR NEA, ASST SECRETARY SAUNDERS FROM ELIOT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, ASEC, OCON, PDIP, PARM, PGOV, AF (AMIN, HAFIZULLAH)
SUBJECT: AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT NEW YORK

REF: KABUL 4423

1. AS REFTEL NOTES, DEP PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN WILL BE VISITING NEW YORK JUNE 3 TO 7 TO ATTEND THE UN SSOD. THIS WILL BE AMIN'S SECOND OFFICIAL TRIP OUT OF AFGHANISTAN AND THE FIRST TO U.S. SOIL. HIS FIRST TRIP TEN DAYS AGO TOOK HIM TO MOSCOW, WHERE HE MET WITH GROMYKO, AND THEN TO HAVANA FOR THE NON-ALIGNED MEETING, WHERE HE MET WITH CASTRO.

2. ALTHOUGH FONMIN AMIN HAS NOT SUGGESTED TO US THAT HE WISHES TO SEE U.S. OFFICIALS ON HIS NEW YORK VISIT, I THINK WE SHOULD SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOMEONE AT THE TOP LEVELS OF THE DEPARTMENT TO TRY TO MEET HIM. IT IS IMPORTANT TO OUR INTERESTS IN THIS REGION THAT AFGHANISTAN REMAIN INDEPENDENT AND TRULY NON-ALIGNED, AND FONVMIN AMIN'S TRIP OFFERS US A FORTUITIOUS CHANCE TO MAKE THIS CLEAR TO HIM.

3. IDEALLY, THE SECRETARY SHOULD TRY TO MEET HIM. IF THE
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SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE DOES NOT PERMIT THIS, I WOULD HOPE THAT EITHER UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOME OR YOURSELF COULD DO SO.

4. IF A MEETING CAN BE ARRANGED, I WOULD PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS ON OUR SIDE:

A. WE REITERATE TO AMIN THE THREE PILLARS OF OUR POLICY HERE:

SUPPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE AND A GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT; SUPPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT; AND OUR DESIRE FOR REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY.

B. WE EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE REPORTS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN. THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS SEVERAL TIMES PUBLICLY STATED ITS ADHERENCE TO THE UN'S DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE UN CHARTER, BUT MANY ARE IN PRISON ON POLITICAL GROUNDS, INCLUDING DOZENS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

C. WE EXPRESS OUR CONCERN OVER OPIUM PRODUCTION IN AFGHANISTAN, WHICH MAY BE LARGER THAN ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. STATEMENTS BY THE NEW AFGHAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND PREMIER TARAKI SUGGEST THE NEW GOVERNMENT MAY BE MORE COMMITTED THAN ITS PREDECESSOR TO ERADICATION OF OPIUM AND ENHANCED CONTROL OF TRAFFICKING. WE HOPE SO.

D. IF POLICY DECISIONS ON ECONOMIC AND MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN TAKEN AS OF THE TIME OF MEETING, WE TELL THE FOMIN THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS INSTRUCTED ITS EMBASSY IN KABUL TO PROBE APPROPRIATE CABINET MINISTERS AS REGARDS THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN RECEIVING U.S. ECONOMIC AID AND MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE.

5. FOR BIO INFORMATION ON AMIN AND THE FLAVOR OF MY FIRST MEETING WITH HIM, SEE KABUL 3511 AND KABUL 3635.
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